

LET'S MAKE CHRISTMAS MERRY FOR THE WORKERS BY DOING ALL OUR SHOPPING AS EARLY AS WE CAN



TOILING LATE AT NIGHT TO MAKE CHRISTMAS MERRY FOR OTHERS



SOMEONE MUST WORK TO MOVE THESE TOYS INDOORS (PICTURE TAKEN LATE AT NIGHT)

ARTICLES OF COPARTNERSHIP.

Bearing in mind the benevolent, praiseworthy purpose of making Christmastic the season of joy and good will which it ought to be for all the children of men—particularly for those men, women and children whose lot it is to work hard for the gratification of others' Christmas pleasures—we, the American people, do enter hereby into a perpetual partnership with Santa Claus.

We agree to contribute to the stock of said copartnership all that store of peace on earth and good will toward men, women and especially children which is the natural expression of the Christmas feeling, and we agree further to carry that expression really, truly into effect, adding to the store of Christmas joys of others as well as our own, by doing all our Christmas shopping, mailing, sending of packages, etc., as early in the Christmas season as possible.

To further the interests of this copartnership Santa Claus agrees hereby to reserve his choicest smiles and most benevolent good wishes for those who give evidence of their possession of the real Christmas spirit by carrying into effect the provisions of the preceding paragraph.

By CHARLES N. LURIE.

THIS document has not yet been signed by all of the American people, but, to the credit of our common humanity be it said, more and more of us are subscribing each year to its provisions. Why can't we all affix our names to it, brothers and sisters? It is not much to ask, not a great thing to do, from the standpoint of the Christmas buyer. But, looking at it with the eyes of the harassed worker, worn and ground each year in the clutching, engorging machinery of "Christmas shopping," it is a blessed thing. It bears within itself the germ of a real Christmas for the workers, for those who need Christmas most and who get least of it. For them Christmas as now observed is to many of them a nightmare of overwork and hurry, of bustle and discourtesy, of weariness carried to the point of utter exhaustion. Dawn sees them waking to a day of nerve racking, muscle wearying toil; midnight sees them returning from a sixteen hour day of cruel, severe toil and strain. What wonder is it that they halt the advent of the holiday season not with the rejoicing that should mark its coming, but with the dread and fear—yes, even with the curses—of the overworked? "Merry Christmas" to them is mockery.

Hard Work Is Unescapable.

At its best the Christmas season is a period of inevitable hard work. Concentration of so much buying in so short a time means increased labor for those who make the gifts, those who handle and sell them and those who deliver them. The worker knows that

for some time before Christmas day he will be called on for greater effort. But Christmas eve and the few days preceding it need not be the antithesis of the holiday season which it has become for so many persons. Sad as it is to lay stress on the fact, it is "man's inhumanity toward man" (and even more woman's inhumanity toward woman) which "makes countless thousands mourn" that has made the holiday season a veritable antiholiday time.

In factory, in store, in postoffice, in express office—everywhere, as Christmas approaches nearer and nearer—does one see the effects of this inhumanity. To the very dawn of Christmas day the forcing and crowding and hurrying of the workers are carried to a degree and in a manner to shame the days of slave driving. When men and grown women are the victims the result is sad enough, but the overworking of children at the blessed Yuletide is a deeper, more grievous reproach to our civilization. It makes

a mock of Christmas; it flouts and scorns the Christ Child, whose natal day the season is intended to commemorate.

Needless Misery Entailed.

And it is so needless! But a little forethought and consideration for others are required to urge on one imperatively the claims of early Christmas shopping. Plan your Christmas buying ahead; go to the stores early and make your purchases, taking them home with you whenever possible. Thus you will help to relieve the awful strain not only on the workers in the stores where the goods are sold, but also on those in the factories and home shops in which the holiday goods are manufactured. The pictures show some of the numerous ways in which late Christmas shopping means increased labor for the workers. From young to old they are overworked in the fearful rush to fill belated Christmas orders. The pictures shown herewith are actual working scenes.

The early Christmas shopping move-

ment is gaining ground, as has been stated above. Impelled by the increasing consciousness of their brotherhood and sisterhood with the people of the shops and the stores, persons everywhere are joining in the crusade against late shopping and the evils which accompany it. Better even than that, employers are now acquiring a sense of their responsibility toward their hardworking employees. For instance, all the leading retail merchants of Cleveland have signified this year their intention of shutting their doors early. In St. Paul last year before Christmas every store dismissed its clerks at the usual all the year hour, and the precedent will be followed this year no doubt. In New York forty-eight of fifty-nine leading stores are on the "white list" of the Consumers' League in this respect.

One of the impelling forces behind the early Christmas shopping movement has been the consumers' leagues of the various states and cities. They are bearing the brunt of the battle for

shorter hours and better conditions of employment for women and children. They are standing in the forefront of the fight to make the Christmas season a real holiday time for every one. For twenty years the members of the leagues and their sympathizers have been waging this good fight. Now the dawn breaks on the horizon as their efforts meet with hearty responses from the working people, the wealthy folk, the lawmakers and others. They have not confined their efforts to any class of society. All have felt the vivifying influence of a strong, determined movement to better the lives of the women and children workers of the country. One of the ablest and most energetic of these feminine warriors in a good cause is Mrs. Florence Kelley, general secretary of the National Consumers' League, whose picture is shown herewith.

"Good Form" to Shop Early.

Mrs. Kelley bases some of her hopes for the success of the early Christmas

shopping crusade on the fact that Society (with a big "S") has listened to the appeal of the league. It is now very "bad form" to be seen doing one's Christmas shopping more than a week before Christmas day. It might be supposed, says Mrs. Kelley, that some of the stores which cater to the "carriage trade" are most considerate in their treatment of the employees, but this is not true, with the reservation, of course, that stores of all classes figure on the league's "white list" as well as on its "black list."

No longer is it true and a reproach to the world that the suffering classes are dumb and lacking in spokesmen and champions. Urging the people of the nation to show thoughtfulness in their dealings with the store and factory folk in this matter of early Christmas shopping and sending of gifts are numerous organizations as well as influential individuals. The newspapers throughout the country have taken up the cause in recent years and are lending to it their editorial support.

Shall We Kill the Plague Rat and Squirrel, Or Will They Exterminate Us?



DR. LOUIS L. SEAMAN, HUMAN Foe OF THE BUBONIC PLAGUE, AND TWO OF ITS PROPAGATORS.

WHETHER the rat will succeed in killing man and possess the earth for his own or whether man will succeed in his present endeavor to exterminate the rat is a question for future determination. The odds are in favor of man, for he unites with the courage and hardness and versatility of the rodent the resources of the intellect. But it is going to be a hard fight to exterminate the beast. He is a splendid fighter—in the words of a recent English writer, "he remains the only animal which challenges us for the supremacy of the world."

Man and the rat could dwell together in the world peaceably, or, at any rate, in a condition of mixed war and peace, were it not for the fact that the rat is a menace to human life. He is the permanent home of the terrible bubonic plague, which is slaying human beings in several parts of the earth. In addition, the rat is infested by the flea, the latter pest is the temporary home or carrier of the plague. It gets the bacillus of the disease by biting the rat and then proceeds to bite the human being, who is thereupon infected with the disease. Thus it comes about that in order to rid the world of the bubonic bacillus, which lives in the rat, man must kill the rodent. There is no escape from the conclusion that the rat must go, and with him must go the various other animals, such as the California ground squirrel, which also harbor the bacilli carrying flea.

To paraphrase a well known Biblical quotation, while other diseases have slain their thousands the bubonic plague has slain its millions of human beings. More than that, it is killing them today. Thus the grewsome record runs: A million persons are dying annually of the disease in India. Thousands of others are dying in other countries. Twenty thousand square miles, one-seventh of the entire surface of the state of California, are infested by the wood rat and the ground squirrel, potential carriers of the plague. This species of wood rat is found also on our Atlantic coast, from New York to Florida, and in case of infection would spread the disease throughout this entire territory. The common rat and its parasite, the flea, are also, respectively, the possible home and carrier of the plague. Through the marine hospital and public health service the government is spending \$500,000 a year to fight the

plague in the state of California alone. Note the cunning squirrel in the illustration. As he rears himself, with bushy tail outspread, with front paws placed together in a semi-supplicating attitude, he looks harmless, does he not? But he is not as innocuous as he appears. Like the rat, he is infested with the flea which carries the bubonic bacillus from house to man.

Readers of history are familiar with the bubonic plague and its almost unbelievable harvest of death. Its authentic history goes back to the third or fourth century before Christ, when it existed in epidemic form in northern Africa. In the reign of Justinian, 542 A. D., the plague appeared in Egypt. Since that time there have been many epidemics, probably the most notable one being that which devastated Europe in the fourteenth century, when nearly one-fourth of the population of Europe succumbed. Out of 2,000,000 inhabitants of Norway only 100,000 survived. In 1665 came the great plague in London, described by Daniel Defoe. In all these epidemics the disease was known variously as "the plague" and "the black death."

Beginning its terribly sure and fatal march around the world in 1894, the present epidemic of the plague has engaged the earnest attention of the world's scientists. Men of medical eminence in all the nations of the world are devoting to the study of the methods of prevention and treatment many hours of their precious time.

Prominent among the physicians and sanitarians of the United States who are leading in the warfare on the "black death" are Drs. Walter Wyman and W. C. Rucker of the marine hospital service and Dr. Louis L. Seaman. Dr. Seaman is a man of international authority on preventive medicine. He has observed the bubonic plague in many parts of the world and speaks with authority concerning its spread. In a recent interview he declared that it is one of the greatest dangers with which the modern world has to contend. "It threatens to spread very much farther," said Dr. Seaman, "giving the figures in relation to California already stated. 'All races are subject to its attacks—not as has been stated in the Chinese race alone. Our country presents a vast and virgin field for its incursions. Unless it is eradicated now, at the very inception of its introduction in America, there is no telling when and how we shall be able to cope with it.'"

In its mortality percentage the bubonic plague is one of the very worst diseases with which the physician has to contend. The distinguishing characteristic of the disease, from which it takes its name, is the bubo, or swelling of the glands of the face, neck, groin and other parts of the body. Other symptoms are chills, fever, weakness, lassitude, vertigo, headache and vomiting. These precede the formation of the bubo. In many cases the patients die within forty-eight hours of the first appearance of the disease.

ARTHUR J. BRINTON.

From the Hobble to the Trousers— Women Who Wear Men's Clothes

SISTERS, are you going to free yourselves from the shackles of the skirt? Are you going to follow the hobble gown to its logical conclusion? That garment "looks like one leg of a pair of trousers," according to one observer. From the hobble to the trousers there is but one step, therefore. Recipe—take two hobble skirts and fasten them together. The result will be a pair of trousers, plus a flare around the bottom that is absent from the masculine variety. But, then, women must have something different in dress, you know.

According to Mrs. Alma Webster Powell—lawyer, prima donna, dress reformer, reformer in other directions—there is a revolt all over the world against the skirt. "We women have been the greatest fools that ever were," says Mrs. Powell. "With skirts you have to wear a lot of petticoats underneath, and skirts are not modest or healthy. They are indecent. A Turk told me once that he wouldn't allow his wives to wear skirts like American women because it was not decent. His wives have to wear bloomers that come down to their ankles."

Therefore Mrs. Powell has devised a new costume for women. No trousers do not form a part of it, but its main feature is a sort of "breech pants," consisting of a divided skirt. It is similar to garments which have been devised recently for use by women aeroplantists and is guaranteed to permit freedom of movement to the wearer. It must be confessed that there has been no wild rush by women to procure the new garment.

There are in the world today at least two famous women who have carried their revolt against the ordinary garb of women to the extent of adopting complete men's costumes—trousers and all. One of them is a Frenchwoman, Mme. Dieulafoy, and the other is the famous American, Dr. Mary Walker. No doubt there are many other women masquerading as men, but in their cases they are taken for members of the sterner sex by the persons with whom they come in contact. Instances of this latter sort crop up in the news now and then.

The cases of Mme. Dieulafoy of Paris and Dr. Mary Walker of America are quite different. They are women dressed in men's clothing, and they make no effort to conceal their sex. Mme. Dieulafoy, indeed, has official authorization for her adoption of masculine costume. She wears it by virtue of a legal decree by the government of her country, granted in recognition of her scientific achievements in archaeology. Rosa Bonheur, the famous French painter, who died in 1895, also had the legal right to wear men's clothes. She declared that women's garments hampered her in her work, especially in painting the pictures of

animals which won renown for her. Our own example of the man-woman in dress is Dr. Mary Walker, who has worn trousers for at least fifty years. In a signed statement to the newspapers made twenty years ago she declared that she "wore what was called 'men's clothes' many years before the war. In time of the war and ever since." She said about the same time that before Susan B. Anthony, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mrs. Bloomer and Lucy Stone were heard of she was delivering lectures on dress reform. "At the time they began their work in dress reform I was wearing trousers," said Dr. Walker.

The doctor in the trousers-woman's name is no fancy or unearned title. She won it by studying and

practicing medicine, and she turned her skill to good use during the civil war, when she filled the post of acting assistant surgeon in the Union army. It was then that Dr. Walker found her trousers useful to her. Congress rec-

ognized the value of her work by giving her a medal, of which she is very proud, and she is also the recipient of a pension from the government. Of trousers clad women who have adopted the masculine garments with the intent and expectation of deceiving the public there have been several instances in recent years. One of the latest was that of the young English girl who lived here for some time and dressed in men's clothing for the reason, she asserted, that she could not procure work when she was clad in the conventional garments of her sex. Several years ago there lived in New York city a woman who dressed in men's clothing and who went by the name of Murray Hall. She played a part in politics. It was said that her



MME. DIEULAFOY.

DR. MARY WALKER.

skill in deceiving people as to her sex was well exercised in the manner in which she fooled the politicians, keen judges of human nature, with whom she associated.

WALTON WILLIAMS.